

In solidarity with you

Today I happen to see an irresponsible statement from a big-mouthed BJP leader Subrahmanian Swamy that most of you are naxalites. It only shows to what depth the current ruling junta can descend in denigrating democratic opinion. Naxalite has been a metaphor in this country for the democratic voices which the rulers want to smother. In recent times it has been a convenient label to be pasted onto Dalits and Adivasis, who raise their voice against their increasing dispossession in order to incarcerate them with the help of lawless laws like UAPA. You must thank Swamy for this lately honour bestowed on you! It is a confirmation that your struggle is just and democratic and the government cannot hide its misdemeanor under the fig leaf of prerogative.

They are not ashamed of the unfolding reality that most stalwarts in the cultural field and film industry have lent their support to your struggle. If their worthy appointee had been even little controversial, such an unprecedented support would not have been possible. Mr Gajendra Chauhan had to be singularly undeserving for the people of his own industry to oppose him to head the prestigious institute like FTII.

It is not an isolated incident of such brazenly undeserving appointments of RSS functionaries to head prestigious institutions of higher learning. There have been a series of such appointments and controversies. Unfortunately, there has not been good enough resistance in the past cases beyond the intellectual circles. In a different context though, the only struggle that compares with yours is the recent struggle waged and won by the Ambedkar Periyar Study Circle of the IIT, Madras. You too are going to win. But more than the win, you have become a beacon for other students and youth in the country to rise against increasing fascist overtures of the ruling classes. The portent is more important than anything else in the present juncture.

Entire progressive India stands in admiration of you for having stood your grounds in face of government's haughtiness for over a month. We all have our moral support to your struggle.

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